

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 24, 27-35, 38-48 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art does not provide sufficient motivation to modify Celada et al (3467368) to show a method of constructing and thereafter installing at a direct smelting plant site a smelting unit comprising the steps of prefabricating away from the predetermined location a plurality of tower modules to be brought together to form a vessel access tower that extends about the vessel at the completion of installation, depositing the prefabricated tower modules sequentially on top of one another and joining them together to form the tower, the base and intermediate modules of the vessel and adjacent tower modules are installed prior to the installation of the upper module of the vessel in combination with other claimed method steps.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 571-272-6864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3633

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Phi D A/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3633

Phi Dieu Tran A

12/5/2011